

What is claimed is:

1. A system for use in a first application concurrently operating together with a plurality of network compatible applications, comprising:

5 an entitlement processor for enabling user access to said first application in response to validation of user identification information; and

10 a communication processor for intermittently communicating an activity indication to a managing application within a timeout window, said activity indication being communicated sufficiently often to prevent an inactivity timeout of said first application.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein

15 said activity indication notifies said managing application of activity by said first application and includes one or more of, (a) a session identifier for identifying a particular user initiated session, (b) a URL to be contacted if said activity notification is not successful, (c) an identification of a type of event preventing said activity notification from being successful.

20 3. A system according to claim 1, wherein

said communication processor stores a plurality of activity indications and sends said plurality of activity indications as a batch to said managing application.

25 4. A system according to claim 3, wherein

said plurality of activity indications comprise at least two PC function activity indications representing, (a) keyboard activity, (b) mouse activity, (c) other data entry device activity, (d) PC application operation activity indication.

30 5. A system according to claim 1, wherein

said first application and said managing application reside in the same PC.

6. A system according to claim 1, wherein

5 said communication processor intermittently communicates activity indications to said managing application using a plurality of different commands including an activity notification command and a command involving at least one of,
(a) determining a user operation session identifier from said managing application and
(b) sending a URL to said managing application.

7. A system according to claim 1, wherein

10 said communication processor communicates to said managing application a request to receive an activity indication associated with said first application and maintained by said managing application, said activity indication indicating time since the last activity update.

8. A system according to claim 1, wherein

15 said communication processor communicates with a browser application providing a user interface display permitting user entry of identification information for validation by said validation processor.

9. A system according to claim 1, wherein

20 said communication processor communicates a time-out threshold value comprising said timeout window to said managing application.

10. A system for use by a managing application supporting concurrent operation of a plurality of Internet compatible applications, comprising:

25 an input processor for intermittently receiving activity indications from a plurality of concurrently operating applications;

an activity monitor for updating individual activity status indicators, corresponding to said plurality of concurrently operating applications, in response to said received activity indications;

30 a comparator for comparing individual activity status indicators with corresponding time-out threshold values to identify an application time-out event indicated by a status indicator exceeding said time-out threshold; and

35 a communication processor for communicating notice of said application time-out event to one of said plurality of concurrently operating applications.

11. A system according to claim 10, wherein
said input processor receives and stores a time-out threshold value for
individual applications of said plurality of concurrently operating applications.

5 12. A system according to claim 10, wherein
an activity status indicator comprises a time indication identifying
when activity of a particular application was last reported, and
said time-out threshold comprises a predetermined time duration and
said managing application determines said particular application to be inactive if said
10 time indication exceeds said time-out threshold.

13. A system according to claim 10, wherein
said input processor receives activity indications from a plurality of
different commands including an activity notification command and a command
15 involving at least one of, (a) determining a user operation session identifier from said
managing application and (b) sending a URL to said managing application.

14. A system according to claim 10, wherein
said communication processor communicates notice of said application
20 time-out event to applications of said plurality of concurrently operating applications that
have previously requested a notification of session termination.

15. A system according to claim 10, wherein
said communication processor communicates notice of said application
25 time-out event in response to at least one condition of, (a) a received command
requesting notification and (b) a received communication from an application session
having previously produced a time-out event and (c) automatically upon generation of
said time-out event.

30 16. A system according to claim 10, wherein
said activity indication includes one or more of, (a) an identification of
a particular user initiated session, (b) a URL to be contacted if said activity
notification is not successful, (c) an identification of a type of event preventing said
activity notification from being successful.

17. A system according to claim10, wherein
said corresponding time-out threshold values comprise a common
timeout period for said plurality of concurrently operating applications.

5 18. A system according to claim10, wherein
said comparator uses a predetermined default value for said time-out
threshold values.

10 19. A system supporting concurrent operation of a plurality of Internet
compatible applications, comprising:

a browser application providing a user interface display permitting
user entry of identification information and commands for a plurality of Internet
compatible applications; and

15 a managing application for receiving activity indications from a
plurality of concurrently operating applications initiated by user commands via said
browser user interface, said received activity indications being provided by individual
applications sufficiently frequently to prevent an inactivity timeout of said individual
applications.

20 20. A system according to claim 19, wherein
said activity indication notification includes one or more of, (a) an
identification of a particular user initiated session, (b) a URL to be contacted if said
activity notification is not successful, (c) an identification of a type of event
preventing said activity notification from being successful.

25 21. A system according to claim 19, wherein
a common timeout period is used as said inactivity timeout for said
plurality of concurrently operating applications.

22. In a system supporting concurrent operation of a plurality of network compatible applications, a method comprising the steps of:

intermittently receiving activity indications from a plurality of concurrently operating applications;

5 updating individual activity status indicators, corresponding to said plurality of concurrently operating applications, in response to said received activity indications;

10 comparing individual activity status indicators with corresponding time-out threshold values to identify an application time-out event indicated by a status indicator exceeding said time-out threshold; and

communicating notice of said application time-out event to one of said plurality of concurrently operating applications.

15 23. A method employed by a first application operating in a system supporting concurrent operation of a plurality of network compatible applications, said method comprising the steps of:

enabling user access to said first application in response to validation of user identification information; and

20 intermittently communicating an activity indication to a managing application within a timeout window, said activity indication notification being communicated sufficiently often to prevent an inactivity timeout of said first application.